



Clean Michigan Initiative Clean Water Fund

2001-0061



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Illicit Connection Elimination Project

March 2002 - September 2004

The St. Clair County Health Department Illicit Connection Elimination Project was part of an on-going effort to reduce the amount of pollution to the St. Clair River Watershed. The goal of this project was to eliminate sanitary cross connections in the Anchor Bay and Pine River Watersheds. The project focused on surface waters other than drains and was implemented in cooperation with the Illicit Connection Elimination Project by the St. Clair Drain Commission, which focused on drains. This project resulted in the identification of 297 illicit connections, 295 of which were failing septic systems.



Grant Amount: \$ 297,718

Match Funds: \$ 130,065

Total Amount: \$ 427,783

Activities:

- Developed a standard operating procedure to conduct illicit connection investigations throughout the county.
- Surveyed 1,067 miles of streams, shoreline and road ditches.
- Located 3,615 outfalls in 17 communities.
- Sampled outfalls for *E. coli* and detergent concentrations.
- Performed additional investigations on outfalls with *E. coli* \geq 1,000 MPN/100ml.
- Developed a database to track investigations and enforcement status



Results:

Identified 295 failing onsite sewage disposal systems.

Worked with homeowners to correct 49% of the systems (to date).

Once all systems are corrected, 14.1 million gallons of untreated sewage containing 4,000 lbs nitrogen, 800 lbs phosphorus and various other pollutants will be eliminated from surface waters annually.

Identified several clustered areas with illicit connections that will require regional solutions

Future Activities:

Continue to work with homeowners to correct remaining systems. Work with local communities to develop regional solutions to the clustered areas with illicit discharges.

